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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yijia Bao, *et al.*

Serial No: 09/925808

Filing Date: 8/9/2001

Title: TREATMENT OF SUBSTRATES FOR
IMMOBILIZING BIOMOLECULES

Group Art Unit: 1634 ✓

Examiner: Ethan C. Whisenant

RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Final Office Action dated October 3, 2003, in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 30 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 24, 33, and 39, as follows:

24. (Currently amended) A method for reducing auto-fluorescence on a substrate, the method comprising:

providing a substrate with at least a first surface, said first surface being either with or without either a biological or a synthetic molecule immobilized thereon, or having either a coated or uncoated surface with a residual fluorescence; and

treating at least a portion of the first surface of the substrate with a reducing agent for longer than about 5 minutes to reduce auto-fluorescence on the substrate,
wherein said autofluorescence is reduced by at least an order of magnitude
RFU.

25. (Previously added) The method of claim 24, wherein the reducing agent includes hydrogen.

26. (Previously added) The method of claim 24, wherein the reducing agent includes a hydride.